

Our democracy depends on the diversity and variety of our media. The conglomeration that followed the Telecommunications Act of 1996 has eroded that diversity. It really is plain to see. Blockbuster movies are 'news' events. The screeching of opinions that passes for news on the 24 hour news channels is just the tip of the iceberg. The line between what is news and entertainment, fact and opinion grows thinner and thinner. With the further concentration of media in the hands of a few mega media corporations, the line will no longer exist. It really is questionable whether it exists now, to be truthful.

Our country's strengths lie in its complex structure of checks and balances built up over time- free market forces and the regulations that make them serve the public interest. Our democracy is best served by regulations that ensure a diversity of voices rather than a homogenization of voices.